

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION
OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA**

September 21, 2015 at 6:30 pm

Fire Department Meeting Room, 817 Mound Ave., South Pasadena

Call to Order and Roll Call. Chairwoman Janet Braun called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Commissioners Braun, Chang, Daley, Daigle, Lieberman, Urquhart and Wing were present. Also present were Police Chief Art Miller, Deputy Fire Chief Paul Ridle, and Council Liaison Dr. Richard Schneider. Also present were Sue Kaplan and Rachel Tate.

Approval of Minutes. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of the Public Safety Commission (the "Commission") held on July 20, 2015 were approved.

Report on South Pasadena Convalescent Home/New Ownership. Chief Miller introduced the owners of the new operator - South Pasadena Care Center - of the convalescent home: Alan Gindi, Elliot Zemel and Yudi Schmukler. The new owners represented that South Pasadena and Chief Miller had been helpful in the transition to the new operation. South Pasadena Care Center has already transitioned away from patients whose primary diagnosis involved emotional/behavioral issues. New patients may have emotional issues as a secondary issue (e.g., age related dementia), but no new patients whose primary diagnosis involves emotional/behavioral issues will be admitted. Patients will be primarily geriatric and the new operators do not like mixing younger patients with geriatric patients. Rachel Tate, an ombudsman, stated that the new facility is licensed as a skilled nursing facility and is not licensed as a special treatment program (STP). The new operators not looking for an STP license. The facility has approximately 120 beds, of which only 16 currently are filled. Chief Miller indicated that he will be meeting regularly with the new operators (quarterly) and will advise the PSC about any issues that arise. Commissioner Chang suggested the new operators work with the community, which will be interested in providing volunteer services. Commissioner Lieberman suggested involving the Senior Citizen Commission..

Public Comment. Stephanie Wolf, who lives near the intersection of Romona and Oak, addressed the PSC to raise awareness regarding a shortage of parking and resulting traffic congestion and potential danger in the area. The intersection is near Holy Family, the High School, and the Middle School. Her street is very narrow especially when cars are parked on both sides of street. Residents on her street have a difficult time using their driveways especially during the time periods when parents are bringing their children to Holy Family (7:45-8:00 a.m.) and when parents are retrieving their children at the end of the school day. She states the area currently is zoned for one-hour parking, and that she would like it re-zoned for 24-hour parking for residents of the neighborhood only. Chief Miller stated that this is one of 5 locations the City

currently is studying traffic and he anticipates a draft proposal to address the problems observed by Ms. Wolf.

Council Liaison Comments. The costs related to obtaining a new Emergency Operation Plan (expiring in December) will be paid out of general funds and will not be paid out of the budgets of the Police Department or the Fire Department. Deputy Chief Riddle (FD) and Captain Solinsky (PD) are looking for vendors to prepare an Emergency Operation Plan specifically tailored for South Pasadena.

Public Safety Open House Report. Sue Kaplan reported that 8 people signed up to participate in the February CERT training, one of which owns a company and wants 12 employees to attend as well. The neighborhood map was very helpful in recruiting residents for CERT training and join/start neighborhood watches. Three people signed up to start new neighborhood watches. The Neighborhood Watch table was staffed by Block Captains.

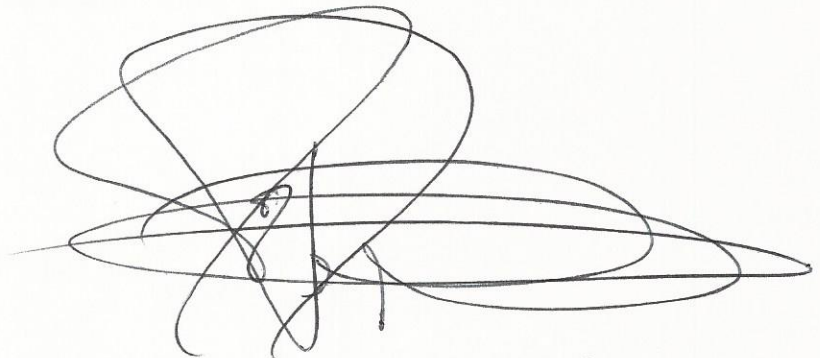
CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Training Report. We have 17 enrolled for the next/current CERT class. The enrollees are younger as a group than prior groups. One of the students writes a column for the South Pasadena Review and plans to write an article for each session of CERT training.

Staff Liaison Reports. Deputy Chief Riddle reported that one of the Fire Department's engines and a crew of fire fighters went to the Butte fire for nine days. Everyone is back. Our city has great compliance with brush abatement. Deputy Chief Riddle will be meeting with a representative of a goat company to eat underbrush located on city owned unused plots. If a contract results, this will be a pilot program. The Fire Department is considering ways of notifying residents of red flag situations and limited parking in hazard areas during Red Flag situations. South Pasadena has an agreement with Los Angeles for aid (engines and helicopters) in the event of a wildfire in/near South Pasadena. Sue Kaplan suggested the use of air raid sirens. South Pasadena and its two partner cities are moving forward with interview to hire a new fire chief. There currently are three candidates, two of which have received recommendations from the Citizen Review Board and the Professional Review Board. Chief Miller reported that the Police Department recently held a course on self-defense for women which was very successful. The Police Department is moving forward with its Teen Academy, for 24 teens. The Teen Academy is intended to introduce participants to the Police Department and city governance. There will be a "Coffee with a Cop" event on October 17 at the Starbucks on Huntington, and then later in the day a bicycle rodeo to expose children to bicycle safety and skills (ideally, demonstrations by professional BMX riders) at the Middle School. The Police Department currently has 28 sworn officers and is losing reserve officers. Although the Police Department currently has enough dispatchers, Chief Miller is concerned that the Police Department may have a shortage in the future. Although the officers very much appreciate the new contract, South Pasadena is paying its officers less than average in the San Gabriel Valley.

Chief Miller will be meeting with the Chief of Police for the San Marino Police Department to discuss sharing responsibilities, including patrol and dispatch.

Commissioner Comments. Sue Kaplan will prepare a calendar of public safety issues to submit to the South Pasadena Review for publication. It was suggested that such articles might have more success in being published if they were brought to the attention of Ted Shaw, the owner of the South Pasadena Review. Commissioner Urquhart suggested inviting the School Board President to a PSC meeting to discuss safety issues, including having the School District provide funds for additional crossing guards. Commissioner Daigle recalled that the Parks and Recreation Commission had a school representative and wondered if the PSC could get an ad hoc school district representative. Commissioner Chang will move forward with district wide presentations to Parent Teacher Associations. Commissioners Chang and Wing will do a public safety presentation for Monterey Hills Elementary School on November 4. Commissioner Braun inquired about suggestions to include on the PSC's annual report. At the Chairwoman's suggestion, the PSC agreed to hold the next meeting at 8:30 in the morning instead of 6:30 in the evening.

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairwoman at 8:37.



Vernon René Daley